

Sirs: Please deny the BellSouth petition to deregulate DSL. My mother and I have been loyal customers of Sonic.net, an independent ISP, for 10 years because they are a local company with wonderful service. Sonic.net would probably go out of business if deregulation occurred, and that would rob us of our choice of ISP carriers. In addition, Sonic.net hires many locals and has become one of the few lasting technology companies to weather the economic storm in our area; if Sonic.net failed, where would these employees work? Finally, I think it's wrong if big phone companies muscle out the independent businesses that nursed the Internet in its infancy just so they can add to their profit; the argument in the petition about increasing competition by deregulation rings soundly false and I hope your deliberation finds it to be so as well. Thank you for your consideration.